

Van Buren Board of Education
Minutes of the Board of Education
Belleville High School Commons

REGULAR MEETING
November 9, 2015

President Mikulski called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Brent Mikulski, Martha Toth, Kevin English, Sherry Frazier, Alison Bennett, Kathy Kovach. Kelly Owen was excused. Also in attendance were Superintendent Michael Van Tassel, Shonta Langford-Green, Director of Human Resources, Shareen Barker, Director of Finance, and Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Questions and comments from the audience regarding Agenda Items – None

Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Sherry Frazier, to approve the consent agenda: Minutes from the October 12, 2015, Regular Meeting; Minutes from the October 19, 2015, Work Study Meeting; Minutes from the October 20, 2015 Workshop Session; Requested Changes in Support Staff: Requesting Termination: Stephanie Karlinski, Secretary, Tyler Elementary, effective 11/6/2015, Resignation for Relocation Out of State; Requested for Employment: Felicia Mahdi, Owen Intermediate, Building Secretary, effective 11/2/2015, Ursula Wester, Building Secretary, effective 11/5/2015; Requested Changes in Instructional Staff: Requesting Termination: Slavica Vidojevski, McBride Counselor, effective 9/25/2015, Leaving Counseling; October Check Register; Field Trip Requests: BHS Trip to Europe for 2017, Owen 6th Grade Camp, and Jazz Band Trip to Central Michigan University; 10/19/2015. There was discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Van Tassel noted that the Sinking Fund renewal did pass on November 3, 2015. He wanted to take the time in a public meeting to thank the Committee to Support Van Buren Schools, and Adam Byrd, who chaired the committee. He noted that this sinking fund renewal will save the District approximately \$700,000 annually in ~~maintenance~~ **major repair and facility upgrade** expenses that won't need to be taken from the General Fund.

Mr. Moore spoke briefly about the teacher evaluation update that was signed into legislation last week by the Governor. He noted there were several components, but the biggest was the change back to 25% of teacher evaluation will be based on student growth until 2017. He stated that last month it was set at 50%. Effective 2018-19 it will go to 40%, with 20% of the 40% based on state assessment data. The legislation also states that with the 2018-2019 school year, no students may be assigned to a teacher that has been rated ineffective for two years in a row.

Superintendent Van Tassel next spoke on the District Monthly Focuses for Administrative Staff. Each month in Cabinet there is discussion on what administrators should be focusing. The November focus includes: Bottom 30 and Spotlight students including data collection and analysis; recent M-Step data; looking at ILC; Tier 1 instruction and what are we doing to ensure that all students are receiving high quality instruction every day; adjusting intervention based on 1st marking period data; Data Dialogue focus, wherein all administrators are trained and are to use Data Dialogue in a systematic approach to look at all data; and finally the energy conservation is to continue.

Superintendent Van Tassel introduced Tom Taylor of Taylor & Morgan, CPA's to present the Audit Report for Van Buren Public Schools, dated June 30, 2015. There was discussion. Motion by Kathy Kovach, supported by Martha Toth, that the Van Buren Public Schools accept the June 30, 2015 Audit Report as presented by Taylor & Morgan CPAs. Motion carried unanimously.

Aleisa Pitt made a presentation to the Board on Instructional Changes for the 2015 – 2016 school year at Tyler Elementary. This was an information only discussion.

Jeff Moore, Director of Instruction presented a recommendation for acceptance of an ERATE grant award for the implementation of the internal wireless upgrades as presented. Motion by Martha Toth, supported by Kevin English, that the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education accept the award of the ERATE grant approval of the implementation of the internal wireless upgrades as presented. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Moore presented an update on the next steps in curriculum updates for Social Studies. He noted that the District has spent the last two years updating the ELA, Math and Science Curriculum. In speaking to several experts, one of which was David Hales, Social Studies Consultant at Wayne RESA, the recommendation at this time is to utilize the MC3 Curriculum (Michigan Citizen Collaborative Curriculum). This system has free resources aligned to state standards. The current plan is to come to the Board in second semester with curriculum recommendation with the expectation of full implementation for next school year (2016 – 2017). There was discussion. This was information only.

Questions and Comments from the Audience (Non-Agenda Items): A parent (M. Jackson-Smith) expressed concern with the shifting of classes at Owen.

Other Items from the Board:

A board member had requested that the Board look at changing the December 14 meeting date to December 7. It was also mentioned that there has not traditionally been a Work Study Session held in December. There was discussion. Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach that the December 14, 2015 Regular Board Meeting be moved to December 7, 2015 and to cancel the December 21 Work Study Session. Motion carried unanimously

Next meeting: It was noted that the amended budget would be presented at the next meeting which had been changed to a Special Meeting. The other two topics would be K-12 Math Power Standards, and the Student Support Network – Vision Statement.

Kathy Kovach thanked everyone who worked on the sinking fund, Thank Ms. Owen for all the work she put in on the Tiger Trek.

Motion by Sherry Frazier, supported by Kathy Kovach, that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 8:10 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin English
Secretary, Board of Education

Pam Johnson, Recording Secretary